Income Tax survey of windmills and equipment suppliers owners

3999. SHRIAJAYMAROO:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax Department has recently conducted surveys on owners of windmills and equipment suppliers on information that they were claiming undue depreciation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Surveys were conducted by the Income Tax Department on various windfarm sites in the country on 5.4.2006. During the course of these surveys, claims of probable false depreciation on windmill equipment by several companies have come to light.

(c) The findings during surveys have been reported to the Income tax authorities concerned for verifying the genuineness of the claims of depreciation and to take necessary action as per the Income Tax Act, 1961.

New Guidlines relating to credit cards

4000. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued new guidelines and rules relating to credit cards;

(b) if so, the deails thereof; and

(c) how far will this help to control harassment now being experienced by the credit card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued comprehensive guidelines on credit card operations to banks/NBFCs on 21st November, 2005. These guidelines

cover almost all issues concerning credit card operations like interest and other charges, use of Direct Sales Agents (DSAs)/Direct Marketing Agents (MDAs), protection of consumer rights, redressal of grievances etc. Further, pursuant to the Annual Policy Statement for the year 2006-07, RBI has issued instructions to all the commercial banks on 16.05.2006 to display and update, in their offices/branches as also on their website, the details of various service charges in a format to be approved by the Reserve Bank. The banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 notified w.e.f. 1st January, 2006 enlarges the scope of the scheme to cover customer complaints in areas such as leying service charges without prior notice to the customer and non-adherence to the Fair Practices Code as adopted by the banks, credit card complaints, deficiency in providing the services assured by the banks and their agents etc.

(c) In the Credit Card guidelines banks have, *inter-alia,* been advised to adhered to the fair practices in debt collection. Banks and their agents should not resort to intimidation or harassment of any kind, either verbal or physical, against any person in their debt collection efforts. Besides, the bank should ensure that the DSAs engaged by them for marketing their credit card products scrupulosly adhere to the Code of Conduct for Credit Card operations of the bank. Violation of the guidelines can invite penal action by RBI.

Raising of funds from global markets

4001. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian companies have raised Rs. 75,000 crores from global markets in 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this trend will persist in 2006 as well;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a strong foreign appetite for India Assets and investors are seeing value in Indian companies; and

(e) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to further boost this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Capital flows to India have